



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Lahontan Region



Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Agency Secretary

2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, California 96150
(530) 542-5400 • Fax (530) 544-2271
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan>

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

April 19, 2005

To Interested Parties:

AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT BASIN PLAN AMENDMENTS TO REMOVE MUNICIPAL AND DOMESTIC SUPPLY BENEFICIAL USE FROM SURFACE WATERS OF OWENS LAKE, INYO COUNTY

The Lahontan Regional Board expects to consider removing the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) beneficial use designation from the perennial and ephemeral surface waters of Owens Lake. The proposed amendments would also clarify that the MUN use will not apply to wetlands below the historic shoreline of Owens Lake. No changes in the MUN use are proposed for the ground water beneath and surrounding the lake bed and no changes in any other beneficial uses are under consideration. MUN is not an existing use of Owens Lake. Removal of the MUN use from the lake's surface waters is warranted under state and federal regulatory criteria for changes in beneficial uses, because of high salinity, high concentrations of toxic trace elements such as arsenic, and the infeasibility of attaining the use through permit conditions, treatment, or other means.

The public review period for the proposed amendments and associated draft California Environmental Quality Act environmental document will extend from **April 29 to June 13, 2005**. Copies of the draft plan amendments, the environmental document, and a technical staff report will be posted on the Regional Board's Internet web page at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan> by April 29. Paper copies of these documents may be obtained by contacting the Board's administrative staff at: (530) 542-5400.

Written comments on the plan amendments and environmental document should be directed to the attention of Judith Unsicker, and should be sent to arrive at the Regional Board's South Lake Tahoe office by 5:00 p.m. on June 13, 2005. Comments may be mailed to the address above, faxed to (530) 542-5470, or emailed to junsicker@waterboards.ca.gov. The Board will also take public testimony at a public hearing to be held at its July 13-14, 2005 meeting in Bishop. Questions about the plan amendment documents or the amendment process should be directed to Ms. Unsicker at (530) 542-5462 or via email to the address above. Please see the enclosed Notice of Public Hearing for further information.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Dodds
Assistant Executive Officer

California Environmental Protection Agency

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER C
LAHONT

**NOTICE OF P
NOTICE OF FILING OF A DRA**

In the Matter of P
to the Water Quality Contro

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lahontan
hold a public hearing to receive comments on p
Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin P
environmental document prepared pursuant to
Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed amendmen
Owens Lake, Inyo County, by removing the be
Domestic Supply (MUN) from all surface water
use to wetlands above and below the historic sh

The draft environmental document for the prop
no significant effects on the environment. The
of hazardous waste sites maintained under Gov
justification for the proposed amendments is pr

The public hearing will begin as follows:

DATE: Wednesday and Thursday, July
TIME: During the Lahontan Water Boa
1:30 p.m. on Wednesday
PLACE: City Council Chambers
377 West Line Street
Bishop, CA 93515

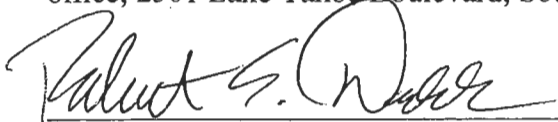
An agenda announcement with additional infor
meeting will be available in late June on the La
may be requested by contacting Board staff.

The meeting room will be accessible to people

The public review period for the proposed amendments and CEQA documents will extend from April 29 to June 13, 2005. Written comments or questions on the amendments and environmental document should be directed to the attention of Judith Unsicker at the address below or via email to junsicker@waterboards.ca.gov

Ms. Unsicker's telephone number is (530) 542-5462.

The draft amendments and supporting documents will be available on the Lahontan Water Board's Internet web page at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan>. Copies of these documents may be obtained by calling (530) 542-5400. Copies of the Basin Plan, the proposed amendments, the environmental document, and related materials may be examined and photocopied on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Lahontan Water Board's office, 2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.



Robert S. Dodds, Assistant Executive Officer

April 19, 2005
Date